



THE
CONNOISSEUR.

By Mr. T O W N,
CRITIC and CENSOR-GENERAL.

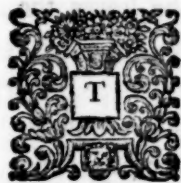
NUMBER XCI.

THURSDAY, October 23, 1755.

— — — — — *Utrumne*
Divitiis homines, an sint virtute beati;
Et quæ sit natura BONI. — — — HOR.

To Mr. T O W N.

S I R,



THE explanation which you gave us some time ago of GOOD COMPANY, has led me to consider the import and extent of the epithet GOOD; which, in the modern sense of the word, is indiscriminately applied to things very bad in their nature, and is sometimes used only as a term of reproach.

VOL. II.

U u

To

To begin, first, with what is called a GOOD MAN. By this, one would imagine, should be understood an honest, virtuous, and religious person: but to look for a GOOD MAN, in this strict acceptation of the phrase, among the men of fashion, would be as vain a search as that of *Diogenes* with his lanthorn in open day-light. This appellation is, indeed, very familiarly used among the gentlemen of *'Change Alley*: but there it is meant only to signify a *Rich* man. He is there called a GOOD MAN, who is able to answer a bill at sight, though he is known to be ever so great a cheat. So by the same unaccountable phraseology, a scoundrel with a large estate is entitled a *Man of Worth*: as among rakes the HONEST fellow may be the most abandoned debauchee and greatest villain upon earth.

By the same figure, the GOOD FELLOW is he, who at a Country Wake can foil the best wrestler, break most heads, and challenge the ring; take *Broughton* by the nose; bid defiance to the *Clare-Market* butchers; knock down the constables and watch, in beating the rounds in *Covent-Garden*; bilk the waiter, and kick the bully out of doors in the hundreds of *Drury*; carry off his six bottles of port at a sitting; or drink October, till he leaves the country squire and the parson on the floor.

As to the other sex, the term GOOD WOMAN is applied, as a mere expletive without any meaning, to the poor only, or perhaps to get rid of the importunity of a beggar. In the country, indeed, a GOOD LADY is sometimes mentioned with a sneer or as a term of reproach; and means one, who is so old-fashioned, as to go to church, say her prayers,
and

and convert her dressing room into an apothecary's shop. But I would ask any well-bred lady, if she would be content to banish herself from the delights of the theatre, opera-house, masquerades, routs, drums, assemblies, and the dear card-table, to be confined to the country, have prayers in her own house twice a day, and do charitable offices to her poor neighbours, merely to acquire the ridiculous reputation of a GOOD LADY.

I SHALL proceed next to consider what is generally understood by a GOOD EDUCATION. This is not to be found in either of our Universities: nor is any learning or knowledge implied in it, except what is called the *Knowledge of the World*, which cannot be attained among pedants, or gathered from musty books. Common lads may be lashed through a grammar-school, and afterwards locked up in colleges: but young fellows of taste and spirit have better opportunities of improving themselves by mixing with the town and the *beau monde*. For this reason they are introduced very early into those excellent Seminaries of GOOD EDUCATION about *Covent Garden*, and placed under the tuition of *Haddock, Douglass, Harris, &c.* It is also necessary, to ground them in the genteel principles of infidelity and free-thinking, that they should attend the disputations at the *Robin Hood* and the lectures of the *Clare-market* Orator: and it would not be amiss, if they were to get a little notion of the modern Art of Criticism by frequenting the *Bedford* and *George's* coffee-houses. After this it is proper, to compleat their education, that they should make the tour of *France* and *Italy*; which will not fail to inspire them with the laudable love of every thing that is foreign, and a thorough contempt for their own country.

Nothing

Nothing now remains but to instruct them in the noble Science of Gaming ; for which purpose it has been found expedient to constitute an Academy at *White's*; where it is taught in all it's branches. The consequences of such a GOOD EDUCATION, as is here set down, may be seen in many instances: Some have been enabled by it to ruin their constitutions, and others to run out their estates. Some have received the finishing stroke of a GOOD EDUCATION at *Tyburn*, while others have given sufficient proofs of it by being gallantly run through the body in a duel, or genteelly shooting themselves through the head.

LET us now take a view of the GOOD EDUCATION, which is at present in vogue among the fair sex. As the GOOD LADIES of former days were desirous, that their daughters should make GOOD WIVES, they thought the first step towards it was to make them GOOD HOUSEWIVES. They therefore bred them up in the domestic arts of pickling, preserving, distilling simple waters, and the like: they also taught them to work at their needle, write, cast accounts, and read a chapter in the Bible or some other Good Book, as they are ridiculously called. But this method of education has been found to be fit only for low girls designed to go to service, or poor parsons daughters that must come to be milliners, or something worse. As to ladies of fashion, to learn *English* would only obstruct their advancement in the *French* language, which they are taught to *speak* from their infancy, but never to read: besides, they will get a better knowledge of their mother tongue from the peculiar dialects used at routes and assemblies, and the spirited conversations carried on at masquerades and other public places, than they could possibly do from books.

books. All the writing required is to be able to scrawl out a billet-doux; for which we must also own, that spelling-books are of no service: and working we know would hurt their eyes no less than reading: As to religion, honour, virtue, charity, and the like old-fashioned cant, nobody would think of stuffing any girl's head with it, above the degree of a chambermaid.

THE present notion of a Good Education was, therefore, unknown to the females of former ages; as, besides the usual accomplishments of dancing, or the like, it will be found to consist in the knowledge of Intriguing, Dress, and (I may add too) the Card-table. In the first of these particulars they constantly receive lessons from the milliners, mantua-makers, and maid-servants; and by being carried about to all public places of diversion, they soon become proficient in the sciences. The same tutors likewise take care to instruct their young pupils in the Art of Dress; and I have known a little miss, by the time she was arrived at her teens, so nice an adept in face-painting, as to apply the *rouge* to her pretty cheeks with as much elegance and propriety as her mamma. To conclude, when a young lady has got *Hoyle's* rules by heart, and is qualified to play a rubbers at a Sunday route, it is a sure mark of her having had a compleat GOOD EDUCATION.

THERE are many other instances, in which this word GOOD is perverted to a very preposterous sense. Thus GOOD LIVING is made to signify the practice of no other excellence, but what consists in Good Eating and Drinking: but as you have formerly given us the character of one of these GOOD LIVERS, I shall only take notice, that the ill

humours consequent of their luxury and intemperance, which shew themselves in blotches and breakings out on their faces, are emphatically called their *Goodnesses*. In like manner, by GOOD BLOOD we are taught to understand a gentility of birth: and though a nobleman be ever so notorious for his vices, or though his ancestors have been raised by the vilest means, his posterity always pride themselves on the GOOD BLOOD of the family. I would not be thought to quibble about words, when I observe, that the most shocking and blasphemous ridicule on the sacred tenets of our religion (though without the least shadow of wit) is by the present shallow race of free-thinkers applauded as a GOOD JOKE. The most cruel and unmanly actions are by our Bucks and Bloods set down under the same denomination: and if blasphemy and profaneness is a GOOD JOKE, a rape or a murder is upon the same principles esteemed a very GOOD THING.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

PHILAGATHUS.

T